

ARTICLE APPEARED

ON PAGE 37.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

18 September 1986

# Reagan Hardens View on Soviets' U.N. Mission

## White House Sends Moscow Mixed Messages Before Foreign Ministers' Parley

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WASHINGTON—President Reagan hardened his earlier demand that the Soviets reduce the size of their United Nations mission as he sent Moscow a mixed message of conciliation and anger ahead of tomorrow's meeting of U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers.

In an effort to look tough in the face of the Kremlin's spy charges against an American reporter, Mr. Reagan named 25 Soviet officials who would have to leave the country by Oct. 1, instead of leaving the choice of personnel to Moscow.

Yet Mr. Reagan rejected harsher measures supported by administration hardliners. Officials hope Mr. Reagan's move will satisfy growing domestic pressure to get tough with Moscow without threatening progress toward a possible summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss arms control.

The ambiguous tone was underlined by two U.S. arms-control decisions that signal a desire to continue negotiations with Moscow, despite the tension caused by the Soviet arrest of U.S. News & World Report correspondent Nicholas Daniloff.

Mr. Reagan agreed to accept a Soviet proposal for monitoring compliance with an agreement to reduce the risk of conventional war. The proposal was worked out by the 35-nation Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. In addition, the administration has instructed its team to give ground on two issues at the Geneva, Switzerland, talks to limit strategic weapons.

In Geneva, the U.S. is prepared to accept shorter-term 30% cuts in both nations' strategic forces, rather than the 50% reduction the U.S. proposed earlier. And the U.S. will soften its earlier insistence on banning all Soviet mobile missiles.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb denied that the president's move to reduce the size of Moscow's U.N. mission was linked to Mr. Daniloff or to summit

planning. Congressional and administration sources said, however, that the timing shows the decision was a clear message to Moscow ahead of the two-day meeting between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that begins tomorrow.

The administration's decisions this week set an ambiguous tone for the foreign ministers' meetings, where the U.S. and the Soviet Union will face a test of wills over three issues that have become curiously intertwined.

The first is over the terms for freeing Mr. Daniloff and Gennady Zakharov, a Soviet U.N. employee the U.S. has arrested and charged with spying. The U.S. insists Mr. Daniloff is innocent and refuses to make a one-for-one swap. Yet administration officials said the Soviets have rejected efforts to add dissidents to sweeten the deal. A senior official warned that the U.S. might not come to a summit if Mr. Daniloff isn't free.

The second issue centers on Mr. Reagan's demand—first made in March—that Moscow reduce the size of its U.N. mission, which the administration says is unreasonably large and a cover for espionage. The U.S. is insisting that the Soviet Union cut its U.N. mission to 218 employees from 243 by Oct. 1, and to 170 within three years. The Soviet Union charges that the demand is "illegal."

The administration had originally hoped quietly to reduce the size of the U.N. mission, but Soviet refusal to agree to U.S. demands and the Daniloff dispute prompted the administration to turn the U.N. into a bigger issue. Mr. Reagan also is looking over his shoulder at Capitol Hill, where conservative senators have drawn up a contingency plan of anti-Soviet sanctions that they would try to invoke if they thought the president wasn't being tough enough.

The third, and most crucial, issue involves Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative and whether Mr. Gorbachev will agree to come to a summit without an explicit agreement that the president will restrict U.S. space technology to gain Soviet offensive missile cuts.

"It's not guaranteed there will be another summit. The Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting is important," said Michael Mandelbaum, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. "It's not now or never, but the meeting could set things back and the clock is ticking on President Reagan" and his desire to move toward a new strategic arms control agreement with Moscow.

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